6: Sauer--122-123 G-5 (1785-94) 1802 Yakut
116, 153, 685, 674

"I have not traced any atrocious vices among the Yakuti or Socha. Robberies are seldom committed; sometimes, indeed, [123] they lose cattle; but this I believe to be more the effect of their straying than their being stolen, as detection is almost certain; for they have an astonishing memory, and relate all their losses at every public meeting, as weddings, &c.; and if any one has in his travels seen such a beast as is described, he relates where and when: thus they are traced, and the punishment is, not only restoration to the party injured, but the thief is compelled to make good all the losses of the other Yakuti during the year, whether he has stolen the property or not."

7: Shklovsky -- 47 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut
116, 153, 186, 871

"The Yakuts are, no doubt, a very capable race. Their memory is excellent. In all the Yakutsk schools 45 per cent. of the scholars are Yakuts (368 to 428). These scholars are very proud of their race, and modestly call themselves the Greeks of the North, but Reclus gives tham a less flattering description. "

16: Great Britain Admiralty --165 [3] G-3 (no date) 1920 Yakut
116, 153, 513, 524

"They are passionately fond of cards; when giving their horses rest on their journeys, they instantly produce their cards, and are ready to stake anything. They are great eaters and drinkers, great smokers of tobacco, and extraordinarily fond of sleep. They are probably the most intelligent of the Siberian native tribes, though the Buryats are better educated."

17: Erman--302-303 N-3 (1828-29) 1850 Yakut-1-2
116, 533, 153, 821

"The teachers in the schools in Yakutsk, informed me that in their Yakutian scholars was to be remarked a singular aptitude for mechanical arts; but that, on the other hand, it was vain to think of teaching them arithmetic, or any such logical acquirements. Other Russians, who were as well acquainted with the language of the Yakuts as with their own, told me that the songs of those people often contain very remarkable passage of a character which we should call romantic. Thus, they assume that 'the trees of the forest hold discourse with one another; and other inanimate things with men.' These poetic fantasies pass away, for the most part, just as they arise, for whether on a journey, or in cheerful humour at home, every one sings the new impressions made on him at the moment, by the objects around him. They have for that purpose a kind of song consisting of only two notes; these are repeated frequently in such a way that the higher note follows the lower till towards the end of each part or verse, when their order is reversed. The whole air sounds so melancholy, that I often thought that I heard some one in the town wailing aloud, when, in fact, it was only the extemporaneous song of the Yakuts. It is not unlikely that my occupations have lived for the moment in Yakutian verses. The men inhabiting the yurts near our residence, used to come every night to the yard, to observe the use made of the transit instrument, and they[303] soon made up their minds as to its purpose. They were of opinion that I was reckoning the stars, and wrote down each of them in the account; that, in fact, a star had been lost in St. Petersburg, and I had been sent to try whether it could be found again

in any part of the earth. This story spread through the town, in the first instance, so generally, that even Russians asked me whether it was well founded; it then made its way over the country, even as far as the Tunguzes."

24: Wrangell--289 G-3 (1820-23) 1842 Yakut
116, 151, 153

"They are also remarkable for the acuteness of their sight. A middle-aged Jakut assured M. Anjou that he had several times seen that blue star, pointing to Jupiter, swallow up another very small star, and soon afterward vomit it forth again: thus he had observed with the naked eye the immersion and emersion of one of Jupiter's satellites. Their memory and local sagacity are also very surprising, and are of the greatest use to them in their journeys through these extensive and unvaried wastes. A pool, a stone, a bush, a rise of ground so slight as to be hardly perceptible, objects which a European scarcely notices, are deeply impressed in their memory, and serve years afterward to guide them over the desert and trackless steppe."